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BROOKLYN'S REAL NEWSPAPERS

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WRECKING CREW Judge OKs Ratner's demolitions

Nets seek to extend NJ lease

By Ariella Cohen
The Brooklyn Papers

Plans to relocate the New Jersey Nets to Brooklyn in 2008 will be delayed.

Team owner Bruce Ratner was reported this week to be seeking a two-year extension on his lease at the Meadowlands.

When Ratner purchased the team in 2004, he said the Nets would move from the Jersey swamps to a Frank Gehry-designed arena at Atlantic Yards after the 2007-2008 season.

But that timeline now appears in question, according to the Newark Star-Ledger and other published reports.

Should Ratner get his lease extension, it could cost him dearly. According to the Star-Ledger, the state of New Jersey is seeking to eliminate a requirement that the state buy \$750,000 of Nets tickets each year.

The New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority, which runs the Meadowlands, may also ask the team to bear more game-day expenses, the paper reported.

The Nets say that the longer lay up in Jersey won't affect the team's long-term goal of moving to Brooklyn.

"We have made a major investment in this team and in the real estate at Atlantic Yards," said team CEO Brent Yarnall.

"Even if there is an unexpected delay, we are as determined as ever to see this through."

A spokesman for the developer, Joe DePascale, couldn't pinpoint when the Nets would actually move to the Atlantic Yards arena.

"We are looking [to move] after See LEASE on page 2

By Ariella Cohen
The Brooklyn Papers

Bruce Ratner's wrecking ball could start swinging as early as next week, thanks to a state Supreme Court ruling Tuesday that cleared the way for the developer to demolish five buildings that are part of his Atlantic Yards mega-development.

Justice Carol R. Edmead ruled against

a coalition of community groups that argued that Ratner has no legal right to tear down the buildings because his arena, residential and commercial project has not been formally approved by the state.

"Being concerned about the impact of large projects is legitimate, but is not a legitimate reason to stop these demolitions," Edmead said in a straight-from-the-bench ruling.

In December, the Empire State Devel-

opment Corporation gave emergency permits to Ratner to demolish the buildings, citing an engineering study that they were about to collapse. Edmead's ruling upheld those permits.

But in a victory for the community groups, Edmead ordered the lead state agency on the project to dismiss a prominent environmental lawyer it hired last year because he had previously worked on the project for Ratner.

The state must now replace the lawyer, David Paget, within 45 days. Edmead ruled, citing "a crippling appearance of impropriety" and "a taint on the process."

"On the slim reed of public interest, he should be removed," she said.

Although flatly defeated on the larger issue of demolition, opponents of the project hailed this part of the judge's ruling.

"It shows that the court is concerned that the process to date has not been objective and has been far too collaborative" between Ratner and state authorities, said Jeffrey Baker, lawyer for Develop — Don't Destroy Brooklyn, the lead plaintiff in the case.

As Baker mulls whether to appeal the larger part of Edmead's ruling, Ratner moved briskly to capitalize on his win.

On Wednesday, workers in blue protective gear started clearing asphalt. See DEMOLISH on page 2



Snow day

Amanda Chapin eschews wheels for skis during Sunday's "record" snowstorm. Here, she glides down Hicks Street between Montague and Remsen streets.



Borough President Marty Markowitz with Steve Hindy (right), Jim Stuckey, Darryl Dawkins and three Nets cheerleaders at Brooklyn Brewery in Williamsburg.

Beer war brewing

By Gersh Kuntzman
The Brooklyn Papers

This Bud's for you?

It might be, if you join a nascent, poorly organized and, let's face it, uphill boycott of a tasty product churned out by Williamsburg's own Brooklyn Brewery.

This week, several opponents of Bruce Ratner's arena, residential and commercial mega-project, called for the boycott, citing brewery owner Steve Hindy's increasingly public support for the developer.

It started last week, when Hindy invited arena booster Borough President Markowitz, Ratner vice president Jim Stuckey,

former NBA star Darryl "Chocolate Thunder" Dawkins and four Nets cheerleaders to the brewery to watch the Nets-Cavaliers game on TV and open a few brewskies.

Days after the party, the blogosphere slammed Hindy, calling him a toady and suggesting that his Brooklyn Brown Ale should be called "Brown-Nose Ale" for the manner in which he was supposedly sucking up to Ratner, who already sells Hindy's products at Nets home games in New Jersey.

"Hindy is desperate to be part of Ratner's hoped-for Brooklyn's bland high-rises, national-chain box-stores, and a paucity of support for the developer."

See STRANGE BREW on page 2

BORDER PATROL French anti-globalization activist blocked from speaking in Park Slope

By Gersh Kuntzman
The Brooklyn Papers

The fair-trade, shade-grown, organic coffee was ready for brewing, but the guest of honor was already on a plane back to France.

International anti-globalization activist Jose Bove — who achieved iconic status in some circles for demolishing a McDonald's in France in 1999 — was detained at Kennedy Airport and sent home last week, hours before he was set to star at a forum hosted by the Park Slope Greens, the Sierra Club and the Safe Food Committee of the Park Slope Food Coop.

As a result, Bove missed the warm reception — and genetically unmodified, organic, local, family-farm-raised refreshments — he would have received at the Feb. 10 forum, "Fighting Corporate Power: GMOs & Food Security," at the Park Slope Methodist Church, Sixth Avenue and Eighth Street.

"As you can imagine, we were all quite disappointed," said Gloria Matterna, a Green Party loyalist and, most recently, the party's nominee for borough president.

"He's such a big draw, but it was all over the news when he was denied entry, so we only got 65 people. We would've gotten double that."

Bove was set to talk about "the corporatization of food and water and how the union movement can work with farmers," Matterna said.

She called his appearance in Park Slope a "natural" given how the Food Coop "has been such a forerunner at looking at the danger of genetically modified food."

"He's always fighting for social justice," she added.

The "fighting" part is probably what got him bounced. Bove did hard time in his native France for driving a tractor through a McDonald's and, in doing so, becoming a self-proclaimed "martyr to the anti-globalization cause."

Bove hasn't kept his Gallic nose clean since, most recently getting arrested for pulling up crops grown with genetically modified seeds.

Bove and his supporters believe his



French anti-activist and McDonald's destroyer Jose Bove was set to speak in Park Slope, but federal border authorities wouldn't let him into the country. The snub stunned members of the Park Slope Food Coop.

cause, not his violent tactics, got him detained at the JFK customs desk.

"The American government is fed up with [the fight against genetically modified organisms and foods] because American companies [that make GMOs] are losing a lot of money," he told reporters upon his return to his beloved France, smiling under his David Crosby-inspired mustache.

"The fact that they don't want me to enter [the country] now is a new way for the Bush administration to build coalitions against us," he added.

When pressed, Bove admitted he was denied entrance because he failed to mention prior arrests on his entry paperwork. He claimed he didn't report the convictions because he believed the question re-

lated only to convictions on U.S. soil.

Days after Bove was bounced activists in Park Slope were still scratching their heads (cleansed, of course, with non-animal-tested shampoo) over the deportation of their star attraction.

"This conference was not going to be violent, though you could make the argument that the large anti-businesses commit violence against farmers every day," said Sean Sweeney, director of the Cornell Global Labor Institute, which invited Bove.

"He was coming here to discuss how to organize food sovereignty into the global labor platform and advocate for the idea that food should be grown and consumed locally."

Too bad there's no McDonald's in Park Slope.

Gowanus pumped up

By Ariella Cohen
The Brooklyn Papers

The wait may soon be over for a cleaner Gowanus Canal.

After saying that a repair of the canal's broken water pump would not begin until 2010, the city now says the work will commence in 2008 — a breakthrough that looks good to those redeveloping its once-forbidding, now-fashionable, banks.

Rest assured, the infamous Lavender Lake will still flood whenever there's a big rainstorm, but with a better pump drawing in "fresh" water from the Buttermilk Channel, the canal will get that "just-flushed" feeling much faster.

"And when there is flooding, there will be less fecal matter in the water," buzzed Dan Wiley, community liaison for Rep. Nydia Velázquez (D-Park Slope), who helped secure the two-

year fix with a \$225,000 grant.

The fetid corpse of water nestled between Tony Carroll Gardens and Toner Park Slope has festered on the city's clean-up list for decades. But as more people buy land along its mucky bank, pressure has built to modernize the pumping system.

Under the new repair schedule, the city Department of Environmental Protection will upgrade the 19th-century pipes that push fecal overflow to a nearby sewage treatment plant, while also tripling the power of the pump that sucks less-filthy water from the Channel into the north end of the canal.

DEP began work on the original Gowanus flushing tunnel in 1982, but it was not completed until 1999. The 2008 repair will be the first major work on the pumps since.

Canal pals

The Brooklyn Papers

City and state authorities say they're back on track — again! — to cleanse the fetid water of the Gowanus Canal. Here are several things that are likely to occur first:

Virgin Mary appears to three kids outside the sea lion tank at the Prospect Park Zoo.

Dodgers return to Brooklyn and seize the Atlantic Yards site by eminent domain.

Surgeon General declares Junior's cheesecake "a vital part of a well-rounded diet."

R train ceases operating in two segments or going express after midnight.

Feds seize Governor's Island for Dick Cheney's private hunting grounds.

The Park Slope Food Coop starts selling animal-tested cosmetics.

The Mets promote the entire lineup of the Brooklyn Cyclones in hopes of reversing yet another slump.

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DEMOLISH...

Continued from page 1
bestos, the first step towards next week's demolition.

Within minutes of the work beginning, the Department of Buildings received a complaint that Ratner was performing asbestos abatement at one of the buildings without a properly posted permit. The developer does have a permit for the asbestos work, although he still has not received a permit to do any actual demolition.

The day before in court, community activists were watching every move closely. Donning yellow "Develop—Don't Destroy Brooklyn" pins

and cackling in protest at key moments of the hearing, Ratner opponents were upbraid several times by Edmead, who eventually called in a police officer to act as hall monitor.

With a blunt eye to larger ramifications of the case, Edmead alternated between chastising Baker and his Ratner counterpart, Jeffrey Braun, showing little tolerance when either tried to stretch arguments beyond the specifics of the case.

"If you put a spin," she told Baker, "your credibility evaporates."

But at one point, she blasted Braun as "bone-headed" for

claiming that Ratner did not even have to inform state authorities that he intended to demolish the buildings he owns.

And Baker scored points when he presented evidence showing that Ratner had filed a demolition plan months before his engineer declared the buildings an imminent danger.

But it was too little, too late; Edmead accepted Ratner's argument that the demolition was legal because the buildings are at risk of immediate collapse.

"There is no requirement for the hard look of environmental impact review with [this] type of demolition," she said.

The judge, however, was willing to give a hard look at the relationship between the developer, the state agency

and the lawyer, David Puetz.

Edmead interrogated Braun after he said the relationship between Ratner and ESDC is supposed to be collaborative.

In the big picture, the issue of independent counsel is really important," she said.

Experts said Edmead's ruling would bolster opponents' contention that state agencies must not collaborate with developers whose projects are under review.

Atlantic Yards is still awaiting final state approval, which is expected later this spring. DDB's failed attempt to block demolition was in part motivated by fear that the sight of the wrecking ball would convince less-committed area residents that Atlantic Yards is a done deal.



An asbestos worker takes a breather from initial work at 461 Dean St. in Prospect Heights.

LEASE...

Continued from page 1

the 2007-2008 season, 2008-2009 or 2009-2010," he said Tuesday.

A spokesman for the Sports and Exposition Authority declined to comment on the negotiations, but did express delight that the team may extend its stay at the Continental Airlines Arena.

"The team's attendance is up," said the spokesman, Bernard Spingier. "They can stay as long as they would like."

Even if the lease is unchanged, the delay in moving to Brooklyn will cost Ratner.

At the time, the arena was the costliest arena ever—was originally pegged to cost \$600 million. But in the two years since it was unveiled, construction costs have increased.

Ratner's bottom line by at least 20 percent, according to the Real Estate Board of New York.

"There is no question that costs have risen dramatically," said board spokeswoman Marilyn Davenport.

Ratner vice president Jim Stuckey has said

delays cost the company \$4 million a month.

In addition to routine project costs, the developer has paid to relocate hundreds of people and businesses from his 24-acre footprint and, at the same time, waged an expensive public relations campaign to win over residents of these same neighborhoods.

Ratner's spokespeople declined to say how much the company has spent relocating residents and businesses or lobbying the public.

The arena will take at least three years to build and would be done in the first phase of the decade-long construction project—which still lacks final state approval.

That vote of confidence is expected this spring, after the release of a final Environmental Impact Statement, according to the Empire State Development Corporation.

"We want to advance the project as efficiently as possible making sure we comply with all the legal requirements," said ESDC spokeswoman Jessica Copin.

Opponents say they will try to delay the Nets' move even further by suing if the state tries to use its power of eminent domain to condemn the remaining property in the footprint.

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STRANGE BREW...

Continued from page 1

ty of small Brooklyn businesses like Hindy's," wrote Fans for Fair Play, an anti-Atlantic Yards Web site, in calling for the boycott.

Another blogger, gumbifresh, posted his own open letter to Steve Hindy, in which he first praised the very product that he now hopes Brooklynites will shun.

"Your support for moving the Nets arena to the Atlantic Yards site is wrong on so many levels," the open letter continued. "The plan calls for the demolition of Freddy's bar (which) sells consistently drinkable Brooklyn Lager at a very reasonable price."

"In the meantime, I will be switching to Rheingold's inferior product. This will hurt me more than it hurts you."

On that last point, Hindy certainly agrees.

"So far, this 'boycott' has not hurt me one bit," the brewer told The Brooklyn Papers. "Freddy's bar, for example, is still selling Brooklyn Lager, and I thank them for it."

A call to Freddy's bar, which is at the epicenter of Ratner's 24-acre project, revealed this telling piece of news: "Selling it? Of course we're still selling it," a bartender confirmed. "Brooklyn Lager is our most popular beer. I just sold one a second ago!"

But even if the boycott hasn't hurt Hindy's bottom line, he did sound concerned, most-

ly that bloggers and rabid project opponents would sully what has always been his company's good name.

But he called the Brooklyn Brewery "boycott" ironic because it seeks to draw attention to the supposed shortcomings of the Atlantic Yards project by damaging a "home-grown Brooklyn business."

"And the other irony is that I'm currently looking for new brewery space because I'm being displaced from Williamsburg the very same way that opponents of Atlantic Yards say [Ratner] would be displacing them."

"And unlike the Atlantic Yards residents, no landlord or developer is helping us find another home at the same

price," he added.

Scott Turner, who runs the Fans for Fair Play Web site, said Hindy's call for sympathy was a week late and a pint short.

"I have a tub full of crocodile tears for Steve Hindy's more corporate — the very 'homegrown' story his company used to stand against."

Turner claimed "hundreds" of people were already asking bartenders, "Whattya got besides Brooklyn?" But he admitted that his numbers were "unscientific."

"It's really hard to organize an actual boycott," he said.

Voltage kills dog on Third Street

Associated Press

A Park Slope dog was electrocuted by stray current running underneath the sidewalk during a walk with his owner near the corner of Third Avenue and Third Street.

Danny Kapitan was walking his mixed-breed dog, Barkis, Wednesday when the dog "suddenly got very agitated."

"He lunged into the street and there was a car coming so I yanked him back so that it

wouldn't hit him," Kapitan said.

Con Edison said the stray voltage stemmed from a street light that had been removed during the last two years. After Wednesday's death, the voltage was capped.

The incident comes days after a teenage model from the U.S. Virgin Islands, in New York for last week's Fashion Week, was shocked when she stepped on an electrical service box near Times Square.

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Two mugged on bridge

By Lilo H. Stainton
The Brooklyn Papers

A desperate — and not-too-bright — thief jumped two women crossing the Brooklyn Bridge in a pair of nearly identical attacks moments apart on the night of Feb. 7.

The thief first attacked a 23-year-old woman at 8:45 p.m. as she made her way home along the bridge's celebrated footpath. The victim saw the man pass her, heading toward Manhattan, and then noticed him turn and trail her, police said.

As he got close, the man suddenly grabbed the victim's arm and said, "Gimme your money." She handed over

the cash, but the thief insisted on double-checking inside her wallet himself before he ran off with the \$12 and a \$10 Metro-card.

But he was not satisfied, police said. Five minutes later, along the same footpath, the same peep grabbed a 38-year-old Manhattan jogger. This time, the thief kept his second hand in his jacket pocket, pretending to have a gun, when he demanded that the jogger turn over her cash.

He should have realized that robbing a jogger usually is a waste of effort: She had only three one-dollar bills on her.

Again unsatisfied, the thief insisted, "Open your coat, let me see your pockets." But another person approached, so

the robber started jogging — in this case, away from the scene of the crime, police said.

The crimes occurred despite the constant presence of four manned police cars that sit in the passing lanes on both sides of the bridge all day long.

The squad cars are deployed as part of an undefined anti-terrorism effort. Police officials will not discuss the effort beyond that.

Both women described the thief as a black man, 5-foot-8 and 160 pounds, wearing a brown baseball hat and a brown jacket, police said. All together, his crimes that night netted a total of \$15 and five subway rides.



Clarence Norman

Top NY court: Norman could face a third trial

Associated Press

The state's highest court ruled this week that Clarence Norman, the disgraced former head of the Brooklyn Democratic Party, could face a third corruption trial.

Norman Jr., the ex-assemblyman and one-time Brooklyn power broker, had argued

that the Brooklyn District Attorney's office did not have jurisdiction to bring charges that he tried to defraud the state by claiming bogus travel expenses.

At two trials in state Supreme Court last year, juries found Norman guilty of stealing \$5,000 that was donated to his re-election committee in 2001, and of trying

to conceal \$10,000 in contributions.

In the latest case, he faces one count of grand larceny and 76 counts of offering a false instrument for filing. He is accused of trying to get reimbursement from the state for travel expenses that prosecutors said had already been paid for by the Brooklyn Democratic Party.

Gun stolen

The Brooklyn Papers

Losing focus for a few minutes while out on the town Friday night cost one Transit Authority official his 9 mm handgun and left him saddled with a difficult story to share with his superiors.

Police said the 53-year-old deputy security chief dined on Livingston Street, near Red Hook Lane, on Feb. 10. He stored his gun inside a black leather briefcase and carefully tucked it by his feet during dinner. When he visited the restroom, the briefcase came along, he said.

The gun owner returned to his table, enjoyed dessert and chatted with several other patrons. After he paid the bill, at 7:25 p.m., the man reached for his case, but it was no longer where he had placed it.

The security chief scoured the brasserie for his weapon, checking under tables, in the bathroom and even looking in the trash cans outside. But gone was gone.

The Long Island resident knew what had to come next: the official call. He notified nearly a half-dozen other Transit Authority officials that evening, then called police to report the theft.

In addition to the 9 mm handgun, the briefcase held his checkbook, credit cards, cellphone, keys to his home and office, a digital voice recorder, his Palm Pilot and a Notary Public stamp and official seal.

The victim then paid for his dinner in cash.

— Stainton

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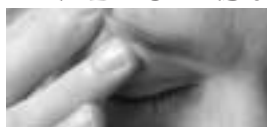
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POLICE BLOTTER

Next time, she'll answer the doorbell

By Lilo H. Stainton
The Brooklyn Papers

It was early in the morning and she was sleeping deeply. But now, one Carroll Gardens woman is kicking herself for not answering the doorbell on Feb. 5.

Police said the 38-year-old woman was in bed when she ignored the doorbell at 1:45 a.m. When she awoke at 5 a.m., she discovered a window that is usually locked was wide open and her Dell laptop computer missing.

The landlord at the building, at the corner of Third and Hoyt streets, made a similar discovery that morning. He found the front door, which is usually locked, had been left unsecured, police said.

Tracked from Fulton

As tricks up the sleeve go, this was a nasty one. Two thugs — one with gun concealed in his jacket sleeve — robbed a man of his diamond earrings on State Street in broad daylight on Feb. 11, police said.

The 24-year-old victim said one of the thieves followed him around Fulton Mall, then over to State Street, between Nevins and Bond streets. Around 12:45 p.m., the stranger approached and asked him to hail a cab for him.

The victim did, but when the car pulled up, the stranger insisted on a different car, police said. During the confusion, a second man approached. This man displayed the weapon, partly concealed by the sleeve, and asked for the victim's cash.

When the man told his attackers his pockets were empty, the thugs took a shine to his diamond earrings. The gunman snatched the bling-bling, then added, "If I in your wallet and find any money, I'm going to shoot you."

But it proved to be an empty threat, because the thugs fled with the earrings along Bond Street.

The victim examined nearly 1,000 mugshots, but could not find his attackers. Police are now searching for two black men, one 5-foot-5 and 170 pounds, dressed that day in a dark-green leather jacket, brown work boots and a black cap. The second man is 5-foot-8, 160 pounds, and wore a black leather jacket and a black hat.

Bravest burglarized

Police are keeping their eyes open for someone impersonating a firefighter or trying to pawn official FDNY clothes and gear.

That's because someone snagged \$1,300 worth of official duds — plus a pair of car seats — from an SUV owned by a 39-year-old city firefighter.

Police said the man parked his 1998 Ford Explorer on the corner of Dean and Nevins streets at 2 p.m. on Feb. 10. When he returned the next day at 4 p.m., there was no sign of a break-in, but his duffle bag was missing. The bag held gym equipment, FDNY shirts and pants, in traditional dark blue, and one department-issued gas mask, valued at \$1,000.

Hi-tech heist

Thieves scored \$6,400 in electronics from the home of four twenty-somethings on St. Mark's Place, police said.

The roommates — all men, ages 24, 24, 25 and 26 — left their house at about 3:45 p.m. on Feb. 6. By the time they returned at 8 p.m., thieves had climbed through a back-room window and hauled away three laptops, a Fuji digital camera and a 35mm Olympus camera.

Bodega burg

Some thieves smoke as they work. These burglars had to work for their smoke.

Police said thieves cut a hole in the roof of a York Street bodega after the shop closed for the night on Feb. 9. When workers arrived early the next morning, they discovered the robbers had dropped down into the grocery and forced open an ATM, stealing an unknown amount of cash.

The robbers also took 10 cartons of cigarettes, a \$74 box of cigars and \$300 from the store's coffers, police said.

Gum-be-gone

Robbers broke into a popular Court Street coffee shop after workers closed up at 6 p.m. on Feb. 10, police said.

When the first man on the morning shift at Joe's Luncheonette, near Union Street, arrived the next day at 4:45 a.m., he found someone had broken a low window near the front. Once inside the shop, the thieves helped themselves to a gumball machine stuffed with nearly \$100 in small change.

Mixed-bag burg

An unlocked door welcomed thieves to a Tompkins Place apartment, where they snatched more than a dozen items worth thousands of dollars.

The 46-year-old victim left her home, near Kane Street, around 11 p.m. on Feb. 5, police said. When she returned the next morning, she discovered the missing items — and realized her mistake.

The burglar's haul included a \$200 Coach backpack, a cellphone, prescription sunglasses, a black coat and silver Tiffany fountain pen.

The thief also took a brown and red wallet with several credit cards, which he quickly swiped in the subway station to purchase Metrocards worth dozens of train trips.

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18,040 children/8,913 teens are the exact numbers of New York City children in foster care on March 31, 2005.

They even took his pants!

By Lilo H. Stainton
The Brooklyn Papers

Two men armed with a handgun forced a Third Avenue gas station attendant into an SUV and robbed and handcuffed him before abandoning him, trouserless, on Flatbush Avenue on Feb. 8, police said.

The thugs pulled into the Getty station, between 12th and 13th streets, around 3:45 am and flashed the gun at the 20-year-old man working the overnight shift. The gunman said, "Get into the car — do what I tell you and you'll be OK."

When the victim climbed inside the blue Honda, the thugs had another, more bizarre demand. "Give me your wallet, give me your watch and take off your pants," the gunman said. Again, the victim complied, and his attackers drove around for a while.

The thugs dropped the attendant near the entrance to the Manhattan Bridge, around 5 am, with his wrists bound. The attackers kept \$40, his cellphone, a black Casio watch and pre-paid gas cards worth \$109. The final location of his pants was unclear.

The victim said his abductors were Hispanic men in their 30s, dressed in dark clothing. Other details were scarce, since they forced the victim not to look at them directly.

POLICE BLOTTER

Pre-dawn attack

A trio of thieves robbed a hospital employee at knife-point as he headed home on President Street on Feb. 8, police said.

As the 30-year-old man, a worker at New York Methodist Hospital, walked from Seventh Avenue toward Eighth Avenue, around 2:30 am, a stranger yelled to him from behind. The man asked directions and, as the victim stopped to help two other strangers appeared, surrounding him.

The first man insisted, "Give me what you have in your wallet," police said. But when the victim turned over \$40, the thug pulled a knife and wanted more. He took the man's cellphone, making him remove the battery first, then ran up President Street toward Eighth Avenue.

The victim described his attackers as three white men, one 5-foot-11, 175 pounds, with short brown hair and a blue jacket. The second man was also 5-foot-11, with brown hair and wearing a black jacket, while the third was described as 5-foot-9 and 160 pounds, with brown hair, a mustache and dressed in a brown jacket.

Un-holy heist

The thief was in a good place at the right time, but for all the wrong reasons.

His Sunday morning visit to the Old First Reformed Church, on Carroll Street near Seventh Avenue, did not involve redemption, but did include stealing a backpack from the church lobby, police said.

The 24-year-old New Jersey woman who left the backpack there before services re-

tured to find her bag gone.

The stolen items included her wallet with various credit cards, a New Jersey driver's license and \$10, plus a one-year-old Dell laptop.

Make-up break

The scene was Bergen Street, between noon on Feb. 5 and 7:45 am on Feb. 7. A red Toyota — with a curious silver case in the back — is parked near the corner of Fifth Avenue.

Zoom in for the close-up, beginning with a suspicious-looking fellow circling the car. Suddenly, he smashes a window and snatches the impor-

tant-looking case, then flees into the shadows.

The story continues with a Scarsdale couple calling police, reporting the robbery of a mysterious silver case from their red 1993 Camry, parked on Bergen Street.

The contents of the case: \$10,000 in stage makeup, according to police.

Slope burgs

Burglars struck three center Slope homes, including two on Carroll Street, in the past week, police reports show.

On Feb. 8, between 7:20 am and 7 pm, thieves busted through the front door of a 34-year-old woman's apartment on Carroll Street, between Fourth and Fifth avenues. They damaged the door and left with two laptop computers — a Dell and Mac G4 — and a cellphone, with a total value of \$6,600.

The following day, between 7:45 am and 4:30 pm, robbers broke the lock on the front door of an Eighth Street apartment, off Fifth Avenue.

Once inside, they stole an iPod, a ring valued at \$2,000 and \$40 in cash from the 41-year-old woman living there.

And on Feb. 11, on Carroll Street between Fourth and Fifth avenues, thieves crept into the home of a sleeping 34-year-old woman.

The woman fell asleep at midnight and awoke at 4:45 am to find a window in the

back open and over \$3,000 in valuables missing, including an iPod, a Compaq laptop and \$30 in cash.

Nab employee

A Gowanus worker managed to boost his pay by 24 grand — but the bonus may land him in jail.

Police arrested a 37-year-old employee at a Second Avenue business on Feb. 8 on grand larceny charges alleging the man kept a \$24,151 company bank deposit for himself.

A manager at the company, just north of Sixth Street, said he sent the suspect to make the bank deposit on Dec. 31. But on Feb. 2, the manager discovered the money had never made it into the company account.

When he questioned the employee, the man said the deposit was stolen from his car while he made a quick run to the restroom the day of the supposed deposit.

But his story about a break-in didn't mesh with police findings. For one thing, his car showed no sign of a burglary, and company records showed how he had tried to cover his tracks, police said.

The suspect offered to repay the missing funds with his own money, even using his income tax return check if necessary.

Instead, company officials called police.

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OUR OPINION

Raise a glass to Hindy

SEVERAL MEMBERS of our hard-working staff were actually enjoying a Brooklyn Lager the other night when they heard a bit of disquieting news: Opponents of Bruce Ratner's Atlantic Yards mega-development are calling for a boycott of this most drinkable beverage because of the brewery owner's allegedly cozy relationship with the developer.

And so they ordered another beer to ponder the situation.

Brooklyn Brewery owner Steve Hindy does, indeed, do

business with Bruce Ratner, who sells Brooklyn Lager and other fine comestibles at Nets games in New Jersey.

And we assume such lagers, ales and stouts will be available if the Nets ever do move to Brooklyn.

Yes, Hindy stands to benefit from a Ratner-built arena in Prospect Heights, but that doesn't make him a "traitor," as one blogger called him, or "an evil man," in the HTML words of another Web writer.

In fact, Hindy is a model Brooklyn businessman.

Yes, when he started his Brooklyn Brewery, the beer itself is (but he has also shown an amazing commitment to the borough, opening a brewery and tourist attraction in Williamsburg and donating plenty of kegs to worthy organizations and community fundraisers.

The supreme irony is that Brooklyn's soaring real-estate values are pricing Hindy out of Williamsburg.

But, as the brewer told The Brooklyn Papers' Gersh Kuntzman, he doesn't have a

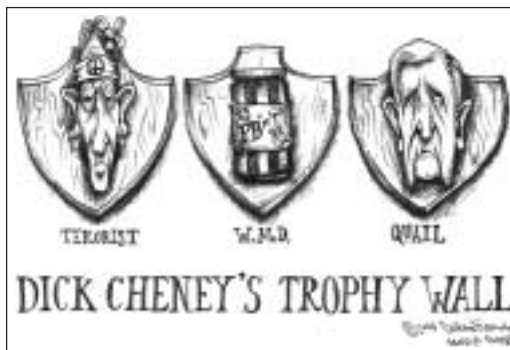
landlord paying him to relocate or finding him new space, as residents of the Atlantic Yards footprint have in Bruce Ratner.

OVER ANOTHER BEER, another thought occurred to our staffers:

A lot of things are happening in Brooklyn right now — not all of them great — and Steve Hindy's product helps provide great comfort in these stressful times.

So let's drink a toast to Steve Hindy. May the boycott fail.

ALL DRAWN OUT



LETTERS

Was 'Impeach Bush' good or yellow journalism?

To the editor:

I tried to restrain myself, really I did. But your "Impeach Bush" article (Feb. 4) implied that you hope that someone will "choke the president" to death. It was supposed to be an account of a candidates debate, but you passed it off without quotes and without attribution. Would you have written that if the president were a Democrat?

This is what passes for civic discourse? You are one step away from the mob in Damascus that burned down the Danish embassy. Really awful. I mean it. And I say that even though I am neither a Republican, nor a Bush voter.

Vito Rucamelli, Carroll Gardens
Editor's note: The story's "choke" line was based on a comment by Assemblyman Nick Perry (D-Flatbush), who demanded that Democrats hold the president "down for the count."

To the editor:

I was very upset to see a popular local paper's front-page statement, "Impeach Bush!"

The Lambda Independent Democrats forum used Fascist tactics when an audience member demanded to know

which of the five congressional candidates favored removing President Bush from office.

I am a registered Democrat and I have less respect for the LID club because of the way it used your paper to spread an anti-American message.

Assemblyman Nick Perry was jeered for saying that marriage is between a man and a woman. Obviously, a candidate who wants to be popular with

Lambda members must support all gay issues regardless of how they personally feel.

Robert G. Cairn, Jr., Park Slope

To the editor:

Your headline, "Impeach Bush!" illustrated how wacko some liberal Democratic Congressional wannabes have become.

There are real issues which are more worthy of debate. President Bush and the Republican-controlled Congress have failed to control both spending and deficits. Both liberal Democrats and conservative Republicans have given up balancing the budget.

Except for Sen. John McCain and a few others, everyone believes the best

way to grease the wheels of re-election is to load up on billions in pork-barrel projects.

Democrats and Republicans have morphed into one Inside-the-Beltway party dedicated to staying in power regardless of the cost to taxpayers.

Their philosophy is to increase spending above the rate of inflation.

Liberals won't say no to social welfare programs. Conservatives love any defense spending. Both support corporate welfare subsidies. They are leaving the next generation an inheritance of government debt in the trillions of dollars.

The late Democratic Alabama Governor George Wallace was correct when he said, "There ain't a dime's worth of difference between Democrats and Republicans."

No wonder a majority of Americans vote for "None of the above" by staying home on Election Day.

The only way to change the status quo is by voting the Beltway crowd out of office! Let them find honest work back home.

Larry Penner, Crot Neck

To the editor:

Kudos for splashing the headline "Impeach Bush!" on front of The Brooklyn Papers. Keep up the good work!

And while I'm on the topic, can you do a story to match this headline: "Dick Cheney — Bloodthirsty demon spawn of big oil?" That would be great.

Tim Philo, Park Slope

Vito's awesome

To the editor:

I did not care for your editorial, "Vito is Dubya's Rep" (Feb. 4).

You say Rep. Vito Fossella is "ill-suited" to represent the 13th Congressional District because he supports President Bush. And you argue that there are other reasons to be "disappointed with Fossella."

Further, you say, "Fossella has a 0-percent rating from the NARAL, an abortion-rights group, and a 100-percent rating from the anti-abortion National Right to Life Committee."

That strikes me as a badge of honor, not scorn. The fruit of the heterosexual union is a human being — from conception to birth. That's why abortion amounts to the shedding of innocent blood — precisely the act the Almighty condemned when he commanded, "You shall not murder."

Do you have a problem with the Sixth Commandment? **David S. Ortiz, Bath Beach**

Editor's note: This paper has a great respect for Biblical Commandments and Constitutional Amendments (especially the First and 21st, on which we are absolutists).

The National Rifle Association gave Fossella an 85-percent rating; you write, "While the Coalition to Stop Gun Violence ranked him dead last at 0-percent."

It seems to me that every "coalition" to "stop gun violence" approaches criminal violence in the same stupid way: try to disarm and punish the law-abiding citizen. Combine this with our wrist-slapping, revolving door "justice"

system, and you have your recipe for disaster. The NRA defends my right to protect myself, my family and my property with a firearm, in accordance with the dictate that says, "the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed."

Do you have a problem with the Second Amendment?

Further, you say, "Fossella has a 0-percent rating from the NARAL, an abortion-rights group, and a 100-percent rating from the anti-abortion National Right to Life Committee."

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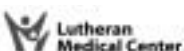
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FRESH AIR FUN

Running a-fowl

By Sharon Seitz
for The Brooklyn Papers

At this time of year, many grandparents head south to warm up, but when migratory ducks leave their frozen ponds up north, it's in pursuit of food.

Luckily for us, the lake in Prospect Park is considered a five-star restaurant — and this year, it didn't even freeze over, meaning that plenty of ducks will keep calling it home until doing their reverse commute when the weather turns seasonably warm.

You don't even need binoculars to enjoy the show — plenty of fine, feathered friends hang out on the fringes, easy for kids to see. Some interesting ducks include Northern shovellers (the males have white chests, the females are brown), who often whiz around in tight circles to stir up food. Their oversized bills (black in males, orange in females) look like they could flip pancakes.

The birds with tiny, white bills and black feathers bobbing their heads like chickens are American coots, and they're not ducks at all, but rails, as evidenced by their funky feet. Wait for one to stroll the shoreline, then check out the clownish feet and long, lobed toes.

Ruddy ducks (males are grayish-brown with black bills and white cheeks) congregate in rafts or groups and dive down for food. In a kind of hold-your-breath underwater contest, kids can count how long it takes them to come up for air. Also notice their short, stiff tails, which stand out attention. Later in the season, when they're getting ready to breed, their bills turn a brilliant blue.

mallards, Canada geese and gulls are Brooklyn residents, but migratory ducks are only here for a few wintry weeks, so check them out with your kids before they take flight.

Sharon Seitz, author most recently of "Big Apple Safari for Families, The Urban Park Rangers Guide to Nature in New York City," leads a family nature walk in Prospect Park Thursdays at 10 am. The cost is \$10 per family. Call (718) 369-6969 for the meeting place.

Gersh on air

The Brooklyn Papers' editor, Gersh Kuntzman, appears on this week's "Reporter Roundtable" on BCAT (Time Warner channel 56, Cablevision channel 69): Saturday, Feb. 18, 9 pm; Monday, Feb. 21, 10:30 am; Wednesday, Feb. 23, 10:30 am and 6:30 pm; and Thursday, Feb. 24, noon and 8 pm.

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The Brooklyn Papers' essential guide to the Borough of Kings

February 18, 2006

Report for duty

Be all that you can be — and more — with challenging and rigorous Boot Camp drills

By Chiara V. Cowan
for The Brooklyn Papers

Seventy-five minutes of butt-kicking running, climbing, cycling, jumping, pushing and pulling at Boot Camp Fitness Brooklyn NYC, and beads of sweat are falling, muscles are burning, and blood is pumping.

Just ask Lisa Robertson. A feeble "Who?" was all she could muster after 20 minutes of ups and downs on the treadmill, including a large chunk of time spent at a 15-percent incline. Although the beats of house music pumped loudly in the background, Robertson heard only one voice — that of Certified Personal Trainer and militant boot-kicker Darren Taylor, 35.

"I like the motivation," says Robertson, 35. "I appreciate knowing that someone's watching me during my workout. It forces me to work harder."

That's exactly why Taylor started an outdoor boot camp fitness program in Prospect Park on a chilly spring morning in 2002. "I wanted to help people change their lives and get out of the same old routine," says Taylor.

So he distributed flyers throughout Brooklyn promising a full-body, military-style (Taylor is a former U.S. Army private) workout — rain or shine. Curious people of all ages, shapes and sizes dragged their half-awake bodies out of bed before dawn and made their way to the park for a series of drills and thrills. What began as just a weekend agenda slowly became a daily routine.

Now, nearly four years later, Taylor and his partner Jeffrey Sidnez, 29, who joined Taylor in 2004, have taken the program indoors to satisfy new and old "recruits" year round.

"We want to target as many people as possible," says Sidnez. "Plus, weather-wise, we can workout everyday. There are no excuses for indoors."

Sidnez knows about excuses. He spent his early 20s overweight and out of shape as a result of a car accident and poor health choices. He lost 85 pounds, took his new attitude to a local fitness club and began training clients. Once Sidnez and Taylor teamed up, the Boot Camp Fitness Brooklyn NYC program truly fell into place.

Nicole Monroe, 49, who also knows about excuses, is grateful for their collaboration. She can remember a 15-year period in which she didn't work out at all. That all changed one year ago when Monroe came across a program flyer. Although initially apprehensive about giving some strange men money in a park, she trudged down to the green and hasn't looked back. Monroe's a lifer and prides herself on having lost 25 pounds and dropped six dress sizes since enlisting.

"It's a way of life for me now," says Monroe. "Darren and Jeff want to see results, and I like that."

Pay your dues (\$425 until March 20) and six weeks of boot camp fitness results can be yours, too. That includes three classes per week, one-on-one guidance from Taylor and Sidnez, and a team of fellow recruits to motivate and swap success stories. There's even a team captain, the one who keeps everyone in check. Miss a class? There's sure to be a phone call home.

"We all push each other," says Javier Vazquez, 37, another lifer. "The intimacy and motivational aspect of the small group setting is what keeps me going back."

No frills

That and the fact that Boot Camp Fitness NYC isn't your average gym. There are no TVs flashing music videos, ESPN or the evening news. No racks of gym attire or refrigerated beverages for purchase. No magazines and newspapers for a leisurely ride and read. No sign-up sheets for occupied cardio machines.

There isn't even a front desk. It's all black and white — literally — with the exception of one exposed brick wall.



Push it real good: (Clockwise from top) On Feb. 3, Boot Camp Fitness founder Darren Taylor counts off the push-ups of his "recruits" during the 5:30 am workout session at his new indoor facility. "Recruit" Nicole Monroe at the end of an exercise; and the campers take to the treadmills with encouragement from Monroe.

FITNESS

Boot Camp Fitness Brooklyn NYC is located at 172 Flatbush Ave. at Fifth Avenue in Park Slope. Six weeks of three classes per week, \$425 (through March 20, 2006). After March 20, \$525 per session. For more information on session dates and class schedules call (877) FIT LOOK or visit www.bootcampfitnessnyc.com.

What you see is what you get — a focused, monitored training session.

"There's no way to concentrate on the intensity of your workout if your mind is somewhere else," says Taylor.

"We want this to be a place where people come to achieve goals — that's it," adds Sidnez.

Each six-week session begins with a fitness assessment including push-ups, sit-ups and pull-ups. Expectations are discussed and goals are charted. Emphasis is placed on increasing muscle strength, flexibility, stamina, circulation and self-esteem. With the tread-

mill, bike and drill-based rotations, no muscle escapes scrutiny.

The facility can hold a class of 30 recruits at one time, although most sessions are much smaller. In April, both the indoor and outdoor programs will be in full swing. While Taylor and Sidnez's main focus will be the indoor facility, three other trainers will keep the outdoor program running.

Keep moving

"Our philosophy is: Make use of every second of your workout," says Sidnez. "Let

See **BOOT CAMP** on page 10

Look better naked

There's no denying that when the "Striplates" DVD arrived at the GO Brooklyn desk, the curiosity of all of my colleagues was piqued — even the ones that don't enjoy a good workout. And that's exactly what Greenpoint producer Christopher Bagnall was hoping when he set out to make this utterly unique workout film.

Pronounced "strip-uh-LOT-eez," it's safe to say that a Pilates novice will be a bit sore the day after attempting this 50-minute fitness routine that works the muscles deeply — especially in the abdominal area.

It's a real workout, Bagnall assured us before we considered popping it in the ol' DVD player.

It focuses on "being sexy without sleazy," he said. The moves are choreographed and performed by the blonde and very encouraging Sally Donaubauer (pictured at left), who was a member of the Kline School of Core Integration faculty in Manhattan before pursuing her doctorate in Physical Therapy at the University of Southern California.

While combining physical Pilates's breathing exercises and stretching with "verbal affirmations" and a few exotic dance moves (like pulling the torso of the body

forward on the floor, with legs splayed behind in Russian splits), the DVD does not feature any footage of actual "stripping."

One of the nifty features on the DVD allows you to switch from a music and narration track to a narration-only track, so you can play your own music — customizing the routine to your own sensibilities.

If I can ever get that copy of the DVD back from my co-workers, I'm sure I'll attempt this workout again.

The "Striplates" DVD (Rock Box Films, \$16.95) is available through the Web site, www.striplates.com.

— Lisa J. Curtis

FITNESS

Dancer-cize

The school at Fort Greene's Mark Morris Dance Center has expanded its traditional offerings by adding new adult classes: "capoeira," Afro-Brazilian martial art; belly dance; and "rhythm and motion," a workout routine using jazz, African, Latin and modern dance forms as its inspiration.

The Saturday, open-level Afro-Caribbean class, "Dance & Movement," taught by Pat Hall, is pictured at left. According to Mark Morris Dance Group Marketing Manager Laura Wall, the center's dance classes — except belly dance — offer live musical accompaniment.



The center is home to Mark Morris — the choreographer who has collaborated with everyone from ballet star Mikhail Baryshnikov to cellist Yo-Yo Ma — and his award-winning Mark Morris Dance Group, whose members serve on the faculty of the dance school.

Classes are taught in three large dance studios that are drenched with natural light, column free and have wood sprung floors. The facilities, which opened in 2001, feature men's and women's locker rooms, showers and a lounge.

The Mark Morris Dance Center school offers adult classes in ballet, tap, yoga, West African dance, modern dance and Pilates, a series of stretching and strengthening exercises with focused breathing patterns. Fitness-oriented classes are offered on a drop-in basis, while dance techniques are taught in six weekly, 90-minute sessions. Intensives such as the Mark Morris Repertory Workshop run for five consecutive days, two hours each day.

Mark Morris Dance Center, 3 Lafayette Ave. at Flatbush Avenue. Adult classes are \$12 for one session, \$75 per series. To register, stop by, call (718) 624-8400, or visit the Web site at www.mnmcg.org.

— Rebecca Migdal

FITNESS

A new Dahn

Brooklyn Heights's Dahn Yoga Center, which provides a serene environment where affordable classes are offered in various kinds of yoga, meditation, tai chi and relaxation exercises, opened in June 2005.

This storefront, which is one of 26 in the New York metropolitan area, offers a spacious classroom, a smaller room for private sessions, and separate changing rooms for men and women. Classes are accompanied by mood music.

The Dahn program recommends that the student participate in a 50-minute individual introductory session to evaluate his or her physical condition, experience level and personal health and fitness goals. This evaluation session is informative for beginners and for those who are experienced with yoga or fitness, says Head Master Yon Suk Hong, and helps the individual to customize a schedule to meet his or her needs.

Classes, packages and private sessions are available.

Dahn Yoga Center offers open sessions one or two times a month to allow newcomers to drop in and get a feel for the center.

Dahn Yoga Center is located at 130 Clinton St. at Joralemon Street in Brooklyn Heights. Individual introductory sessions are free and classes range from \$8 to \$18. Class schedules are available at www.dahnyoga.com. For more information, call (718) 254-8833.

— Rebecca Migdal

FITNESS

Balancing act

Whether you're an exercise buff, or you're just trying to fix that funny kink in the middle of your back from sitting at the computer all day, you'll find both classes and tools for feeling better at Ellie Herman Studio's newest Pilates center in Park Slope.

This is the third studio established by instructor Herman, author of several books on this fitness craze, including "Pilates For Dummies."

First developed by Joseph Pilates to help dancers and athletes rehabilitate from injuries, says Herman, Pilates is a "combination of yoga, gymnastics and dance" that aligns and strengthens the body.

Using a variety of specialized equipment with names like the "wunda-chair" or the "reformer," Pilates exercises can be gentle enough to safely help an injured person ease their pain and challenging enough to train an Olympic athlete.

In addition to classes and private sessions in Pilates, Herman offers teacher training at her fully equipped studio.

Ellie Herman Studio is located at 788A Union St. between Seventh and Eighth avenues in Park Slope. Classes range from \$18 to \$25. Recommended introductory sessions are \$45. For information and reservations, call (718) 230-5717 or visit www.ellie.net.

— Rebecca Migdal

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BROOKLYN

Neighborhood Dining Guide

This week: ATLANTIC AVENUE

Brawta Caribbean Cafe

347 Atlantic Ave. at Hoyt Street, (718) 855-5515, www.brawta.com; also in Park Slope at 447 Seventh Ave. at 15th Street, (718) 788-4680 (AmEx, DC, Disc, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$12.50-\$24. This small Caribbean restaurant offers flavorful dishes in huge portions. Seafood items include spicy curried coconut shrimp, jerk shrimp with mango salsa, and conch rice. For a uniquely West Indian flavor, manager Jamila Nolan recommends the "dhalpuri" roti (a soft flat bread filled with chickpea stuffed with a mixture of coconut and adobo, a soft yellow rice, it's the "Jamaican national dish," says Nolan. Vegetarian dishes such as tofu roti and jerk tofu are available. Brawta is BYOB, but don't forget about their fresh-squeezed juices like mango, fruit punch, or pineapple (a sweet combination of ginger and pineapple), or exotic sorbet (hibiscus flower drink), fresh mochi (a searose tonic) or peanut punch. For dessert, Brawta offers their own mango or pineapple cheesecake. The Park Slope outpost is takeout and delivery only, it's open till 7 pm and is closed on Mondays. The Atlantic Avenue location is open daily for lunch and dinner, sidewalk seating is available in warm weather.

Bacchus

409 Atlantic Ave. at Bond Street, (718) 852-1572 (AmEx) Entrees: \$10-\$18. Bruno Ladd's cozy French wine bar and bistro has a quiet dining room, and the tree-lined patio is available for parties of 50 or more.

A new menu is being introduced this coming week, says Ladd, with winegarden special. Popular dishes that will be on the menu include pan-seared sole with almond tomato confit and the pork tenderloin with roasted apples and potatoes. Ladd also offers cream sauce. Among the new items is the pan-seared leg of lamb au jus with thyme, garlic confit and potato pancake. Weekly specials include: coq au vin with a glass of Bordeaux, \$15, on Mondays and Tuesdays; two-for-one entrees on Wednesdays; on Thursdays, there's a three-course tasting menu with three glasses of wine for \$45, says Ladd; and Friday is oyster night with six Malpasse oysters for \$12, and with every dozen, a free glass of crisp, fruity muscadet.

The lunch menu has standard French fare, with omelets, quiches and "croque monsieur" (the French version of the ham and cheese sandwich). Brawta is served on weekends. Open daily.

The Chipshop

129 Atlantic Ave. at Henry Street, (718) 855-7775, www.chipshop.com; also in Park Slope at 383 Fifth Ave. at Sixth Street, (718) 244-7467 (AmEx, DC, Disc, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$5-\$12.50. Christopher Sell branched out into Brooklyn Heights in February 2005 with this Atlantic Avenue location of his popular Park Slope British restaurant. His newest restaurant features 16 draft beers (half of them British, along with Belgian specialties) behind a bar exhibiting Sell's own collection of whiskey jugs. It features the usual Brit fare including battered and deep-fried haddock, bangers and mash, and Chipshop diner's favorite, the wild mushroom and artichoke and cheese. For dessert, they have their famous deep-fried Twinkles as well as their latest addition for weight watchers, the deep-fried Alani candy bar. The restaurant serves lunch and dinner daily. A brunch menu is offered on weekends. Delivery to Brooklyn Heights is available.

Jolie Restaurant

320 Atlantic Ave. at Hoyt Street, (718) 488-0777, www.jolierestaurant.com (AmEx) Entrees: \$15-\$23. From the art displayed on the walls to suede banquettes and contemporary-style chandeliers, Jolie Restaurant is all about its name — it's very "pretty." In addition to the 60-seat dining room, you can enjoy a Nancy L. Magdo or Barbie — cocktails known as "Jolie juice" — at the 10-seat mezzanine bar.

The classic French dishes, created by chef Jean-Marc Hardy, are the most "fancy" of all. For starters, there's a steak tartare au cognac that is famous, boasts co-owner Benjamin Tretout; he also recommends the fish "quennelle" (a mousse-like creation in lobster juice), and the oyster terrine with cornichons and onion compound. Entrees include "mille-feuille" of sea bass, layered with leeks and spinach with a red pepper coulis, and daily specials, such as cornish hen stuffed with mushrooms and fig sauce. Complete your meal with a creme Suzette, a creme filled with orange cream and heated at tableside, or the trio of creme brûlée, flavored with blueberry, vanilla and espresso. Outdoor dining is available in the 30-seat rear garden. Open Mondays for dinner, Tuesday through Friday for lunch and dinner; Saturday and Sunday, for brunch and dinner.

Mal

497 Atlantic Ave. between Third Avenue and Nevins Street (718) 737-3880 (Cash only) Entrees: \$9-\$15.50. At Mal (pronounced "Mall"), benches are strewn with rose and apricot Indonesian pillows, their gold-embroidered threads in the subdued glow.

"I serve light, healthy dishes with lots of seasonal vegetables," owner and chef Daniel Wu told GO Brooklyn. Take the "kian baker," a fillet of pan-seared snapper with grilled zucchini and eggplant and a swirl of coconut milk, flavored with ground cardamom (like a macadamia nut crisp), lime juice and lemongrass, that GO dining critic Tina Barry

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Abbreviation Key: AmEx= American Express, DC= Discover, DC= Discover Card, MC= MasterCard, Visa= Visa Card

Chipshop owner Chris Sell.

calls "dazzling." Other specialties include "xi xao gang," duck over Chinese broccoli in wine and ginger sauce, "yui quang," a deep bowl of broth, turmeric marinated noodles, Chinese ham and huge prawns that Wu described as typical Vietnamese street food, or the "cha do ca" (spring roll), filled with salmon and carrots leaves, served with a dip of basil, mint, lime juice and chili. The "ca bam," wok-fried monkfish eaten with a lettuce leaf wrapper, and "muc nuong," a single, grilled squid stuffed with shrimp, glass noodles and shitake mushrooms make "Asian" appetizers according to Barry. For dessert, she recommends the fruit plate of mango, Asian pear and tangerine, and a pot of freshly grated ginger tea. The restaurant serves lunch and dinner daily.

Soul Spot

302 Atlantic Ave. at Hoyt Street, www.thehouseofpops.com (718) 596-9933 (MC, Visa) Entrees: \$6-\$12.95.

Barney Turay and Chef Vaya Cesay opened this Caribbean-influenced, Southern-style soul food spot in June 2003. Cesay, who says he spent five years at Soul Fusions in Manhattan, has a long list of signature dishes which includes meatloaf, barbecued beef ribs, fried chicken, baked salmon, macaroni and cheese, collard greens and candied yams. As the menu says, "Makes you never wanna cook again." Sidekick: dining when weather permits. Catering available for all occasions. Open daily 11 am to 11 pm.

Stir It Up

514 Atlantic Ave. at Nevins Street, (718) 643-3716 (AmEx, DC, Disc, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$7-\$14. For a casual, West Indian-flavored meal, Sonia Gordon's Stir It Up is truly a stirring experience. To start, there's the Stir It Up's spicy jerk wings infused with a fence jerk sauce and house-made ginger beer, ice tea, lemonsade, fruit punch or sorrel (hibiscus tonic) to cool you down. For lunch or dinner, you can enjoy their "Steven Stone Punch," red snapper gently simmered in gray with onions, peppers, scallions, pimento and thyme, or you may prefer one of their vegan entrees, such as "chicken" or "pepper steak" with tri-color peppers and onions. Desserts include house-made sweet potato pie, cake, carrot cake and a veggie sweet potato pie. Chipshop diner's favorite, the wild mushroom and artichoke in its dining room with wood floors and blue walls. Catering for all occasions. Open Monday through Saturday for lunch and dinner. Closed Sundays.

Tazza Bakery and Ice Cream

311 Henry St. at Atlantic Avenue, (718) 243-0487 (MC, Visa) Pastries: \$3.95-\$7.95, baked goods: \$4-\$5.25.

Tazza, Italian for "cup," was opened in October by John Ghorichian and Nancy Vigore. They are two local moms who wanted a place where they could sit comfortably with their toddlers and eat a good sandwich, enjoy a decent cup of coffee or even sip a glass of wine. So they created the "warm, modern yet rustic, bright and airy" space on Henry Street, says Ghorichian, built a long copper bar, painted the room in creamy yellow and soft blue, and laid the floor with ivory tiles. Wines are available by the glass from an international wine list. Parents and kids fill the copper tables, sharing house-made panini, pizza or your cream walled apple pie from Manhattan's Little Pie Company, or scarfing down red velvet cake from Baked in the Hood. Tazza makes their own cakes and pies to order, and manager James Rogers says that customers stop by all day for the fresh bread.

"But the real reason to come here," says Rogers, "is the coffee. It's that good." Open 7 am till 10 pm daily.

Waterfront Ale House

155 Atlantic Ave. at Henry Street, (718) 522-3794, www.waterfrontalehouse.com (AmEx, DC, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$9.95-\$23.95. ★

Since 1989, Sam Barber's Waterfront Ale House has embraced its pub status, offering 30 beers on tap and 65 different bottles. But with the help of local chef Jim Takacs, they are able to go well beyond the usual bar fare. There are the obligatory chicken wings and fried calamari, but diners can also sample more sophisticated choices like venison and black bean chili with tequila-cilantro sour cream. Try any of Waterfront's award-winning barbecue items from beef brisket to ribs and pulled pork. There is also a wide selection of seasonal wild game such as kabob burgers, buffalo and catfish. All meats are smoked in-house. For lighter fare there's salads like the southwestern chicken with chipotle ranch dressing, or grilled portobellos with eggplant and goat cheese. For dessert, Barber suggests the home-made bread pudding with bourbon glaze, southern apple cake or a double fudge brownie. Open daily for lunch and dinner, weekday lunch specials from 11:30 am to 3 pm include a cup of soup, beverage and choice of entree for \$9.95.

Editor's note: These are a sampling of restaurants in the neighborhood. The list rotates, and it is not comprehensive. For more restaurants, go to www.brooklynpapers.com on the Web. If your restaurant is not listed and you would like it to be, please contact GO Brooklyn Editor Lisa Curtis via e-mail at Curtis@brooklynpapers.com.

In the raw

The Plant brings extreme vegetarian cuisine to DUMBO

By Alla Grodzanic
For The Brooklyn Papers

"This is the only high-risk part," said Matthew Kenney, as he swung an oversized kitchen knife against the hard, ivory shell of a Thai coconut. "There's no other way to do this, unless you have a chainsaw."

Kenney, 41, a raw foods chef, restaurateur and owner of three Blue/Green Organic Juice Cafes in New York City, demonstrated the laborious process involved in opening a young Thai coconut, whose juice he uses as a base for his signature Blue/Green smoothies. On Jan. 25, his class of a dozen aspiring raw foodists watched eagerly as the action unfolded before them.

The "Blue/Green Essentials" class, one in a series of raw foods demonstrations led by Kenney, took place at the newest Blue/Green Organic Juice Cafe location, which opened in November in DUMBO. (The other two juice cafes are in Manhattan at 203 E. 74th St. and 248 Mott St.)

The Blue/Green cafes are part of Kenney's Organic Umbrella, a lifestyle company which he founded as a vehicle to advocate organic living. The Brooklyn addition to the Blue/Green mini chain — a 20-seat, warehouse-like space decorated in a minimalist industrial style — is located within Organic Umbrella's headquarters, also known as The Plant.

A raw food factory of sorts, The Plant is where everything on the Blue/Green menu, except for the juices, is assembled, prepared and then delivered to the organic cafes. After about six unsuccessful trials, the resistant coconut shell caved under the repeated swings of the sharp blade, splitting along the top and allowing the chef to extract its clear juice and white flesh.

"Make sure to get a young Thai coconut and not a mature one," Kenney warned his students, explaining that as the coconut matures, its flesh becomes pink. "We don't use those because we think that they have gone bad."

Using coconut's meat and juice, blue/green algae, coconut oil, agave nectar and a heavy-duty Vita-mix blender, Kenney instructed the class on how to make the Blue/Green smoothie. "You can taste the algae a little bit," he said after taking a sip of the freshly made, bluish-green potion. Kenney even named his cafes after the blue-green algae he uses in his smoothies. ("For whatever reason, blue is a good restaurant name," he explained.)

The coconut gives the nutritious drink a "gelatinous" texture, according to Kenney, and the smoothie's flavor is neither sweet nor salty, but healthily-tasting, like fresh vegetables. You almost expect it to give you superpowers. If you're not exactly salivating at the thought of algae flavoring, try the black cherry, banana and cacao or the raspberry, mango and almond milk versions.

Other raw dishes prepared and presented in the "Blue/Green Essentials" class — such as tabbouleh, macadamia hummus, Zaa' tar flatbread, and lasagna made with thinly sliced squash, red pepper macadamia cheese, black olive pesto and herbed bread crumbs — were exquisitely complex and pleasing to the eye. And surprisingly, the raw dishes were rich, spicy and flavorful.

You could barely tell that the hummus was made with macadamia nuts and not chickpeas, which, according to Kenney, do not taste as good. Raw and are much heavier on your stomach. And even though the raw lasagna didn't quite resemble, in flavor or in texture, the Italian dish it was trying to emulate, it was a treat in its own right, though a bit too salty.

The chocolate hazelnut tart, however, served with vanilla and cherry chip ice cream and raspberry and chocolate syrup, tasted so mouthwateringly good, it was hard to believe it was actually good for you.

"This is the most gourmet you're going to get of raw cuisine anywhere in New York," said Helene Seligman, 40, a participant in the class. Seligman has been eating 100 percent raw for almost a month.



Cool kitchen: The Plant (top left), which includes the Blue/Green Organic Juice Cafe and a raw foods "cooking" school, opened in DUMBO in November. (Above) Plant owner-chef Matthew Kenney with puppy chef Kristin Reyes, showing off her raw cheesecakes and pumpkin pie.

"I think [Kenney] is a real genius. I really do," she said. "He's very creative, and I love what he does with coconuts."

What's raw food?

So, what's this raw food mumbo jumbo we keep hearing about? Simply put, take a hardcore vegan diet — a veggie-based diet that does not involve any trace of animal products — turn it up a notch and make it even more difficult to adhere to by requiring that all the food be eaten raw, as in not heated over 118 degrees Fahrenheit.

According to experienced raw food eaters, your body will thank you for the effort.

"You'll notice how great you feel and you'll want to feel that way over and over again," said Tracey Henry, a "Blue/Green Essentials" class participant and a vegan who's testing the waters of "living food," another name for "raw."

The menu at Blue/Green offers a wide range of raw delicacies, from corn tortilla chips, seaweed salad, portobello fajitas and zucchini pasta to cheesecakes, puddings, 10 delicious flavors of ice cream and, of course, smoothies and juices.

"People look at the diet as in 'you can't eat this or that,' but there are so many things you can eat on a raw food diet," Kenney said. "Raw food is not so much about being extreme, but being aware and in tune with your body."

Before going raw, Kenney was an accomplished chef and restaurateur, trained at the French Culinary Institute. Since the early '90s, Kenney has opened several Mediterranean restaurants throughout Manhattan and was

named one of the 10 best "new chefs in America" by "Food and Wine" magazine in 1994. From 1999 on, he turned his attention to regional American cuisine, followed by several restaurant openings in New York, Atlanta and Portland, Maine. During this period, Kenney published two cookbooks: "Matthew Kenney's Mediterranean Cookbook" and "Matthew Kenney's Big City Cooking."

Several professional setbacks later, Kenney's culinary career took a new turn in 2002, as a result of a revelation he had during a meal with a friend at a raw vegan restaurant. A former omnivore, Kenney has been eating almost 100 percent raw for the past two years. He co-authored a raw-food cookbook, "Raw Food, Real World" and opened a raw food restaurant, Pure Food and Wine, in 2004, followed by Heistoom, an upscale vegetarian eatery in November of last year. (Both restaurants are in Manhattan.)

One of the greatest adjustments of switching to raw is learning how to prepare this type of food, said Kenney. You will need a cutting board, cleaver, blender, juicer, food processor, spice grinder and a dehydrator.

The other challenge of eating raw is the social implication of not being able to go out with friends to restaurants of their choice. But he said that he still goes out and orders for veggie selections on the menu.

"It's amazing how raw food changes your cravings, because you can't have things immediately," said Kristin Reyes, Kenney's pastry chef, who prepared the dessert for the class. Reyes, 21, has been eating vegan for three years and 100 percent raw for almost a year. She also teaches the dessert class, "Sweet in the Plant."

"Eat raw for a week and then try a piece of white bread," she said, explaining that processed food starts tasting artificial.

The good thing about raw food, she said, is that you find out what you do and do not like and what you can and cannot digest.

"The number one thing I learned from eating raw," Kenney added, "is how to chew my food."

The main reason that he is sticking to the raw food diet, he said, is because of how it makes him feel.

"I used to have a lot of off days," said Kenney. "Now I never do."

The raw food movement has been on the rise over the years and it's going to get bigger and bigger, Kenney said. He plans on sowing the Blue/Green seeds across the country, by opening a plant in Los Angeles in the next year.

"If I didn't believe in [raw food cuisine] as a business," he said, "I would have pursued it on a personal level only."

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THE BROOKLYN ANGLE

By Gersh Kuntzman

A Brooklyn sarge calls the roll one last time

PRECINCT HOUSES are bugs trapped in amber. The desk sergeant greets outsiders like they're ne'er-do-well uncles looking for a handout. In the far corner is a Shine-a-Mat machine with two worn-down brushes that look as though they haven't been replaced since men wore hats.

The air is filled with the pervasive stench of old cigarettes, even though smoking hasn't been permitted for years. And the far wall — the Wall of Shame — is covered with mugshots that leave no doubt why the cops call these recidivists "saks," most of the grizzled mugs belong to men who appear to have already been dead for three weeks when the photo was taken.

So perhaps it was foolish to think a columnist from the other side of these particular tracks could breach this blue-walled fortress last week, despite being granted a rare chance to watch Sergeant Anthony Donadio of Bay Ridge's 68th Precinct give his last roll call after 22 years on the force.

The roll call, of course, is that most hoary of Hollywood police clichés, typically featuring a gruff-but-lovable (think Jack Ward) officer barking out the day's marching orders.

But before Donadio appeared, his officers — and superiors — sang his praises like mob stooges squealing for a reduced sentence.

"This is a guy who tells you like it is," said John Iorio, who has served under Don-



Sergeant Anthony Donadio checks everyone in and hands out advice for the last time at the 68th Precinct on Feb. 10.

dio for seven years. "He's real world. No sugar-coating." Pressed for an example, Iorio couldn't find the words. "If you ask him something," Iorio tried, "he'll tell you straight out, what's what."

For example? "He's just no bulls—."

For example? "He always used common sense," offered his C.O., William Aubry. "This was a guy who knew how to talk to people on the street."

For example? "I couldn't have learned from a better teacher," said Peter Pasquale, who just made sergeant after 11 years at Donadio's holster. "He was the kind of sergeant who never asked anyone to do anything he hadn't done himself."

For example? "He was just such a hard-

worker."

For example? "Coming into this job, you look for a father figure, someone to show you how it's done," said rookie John Pappo. "He was that guy for me."

For example? No matter how diligently the columnist dug, no answer was forthcoming.

SO, AS EASY as it was to see that "the men" loved their sarge, it wasn't exactly clear why — until it was finally time for Donadio to read the roll, the four hushmarks on his arm and the flinty awkwardness of being in the spotlight the only thing distinguishing him from the others.

He took attendance with little fanfare, then told each pair of partners about robbery pat-

terns in the vicinity.

Then he mumbled out three paragraphs so reluctantly that it almost appeared that he knew he'd no longer be a cop the minute he stopped speaking.

Yet the advice was timeless and universal, even to this outsider.

"Do not wish away your career," he told his mostly young cops. "Trust me when I tell you the years will fly by. Save the good times and learn from the bad."

"Second, take care of your partner; take care of your squad; take care of each other. Treat the NYPD as your extended family. This will make for a better job and a better cop."

Lastly, remember this: Having 22 years on the job, my experience has been that there are two kinds of cops: NYPD officers and all other law enforcement officers who wish they were NYPD. Other police departments use the NYPD bar as a standard of achievement. I am proud to have served as a New York City police officer and worked with officers of your caliber and character."

He was nearly crying by the end, but, fortunately, state Sen. Marty Golden (R-Bay Ridge) and City Councilman Vincent Gentile (D-Bay Ridge) came over and gave him proclamations, allowing Donadio to steel himself behind the blue wall of stoicism again.

Chattering him up later, it was clear it's not a wall he often allows to come tumbling down.

"In 22 years, the only thing I learned is how to dry my hands using only toilet paper," he said, keeping a questioner at a distance (another officer gave the entirely unnecessary explanation: there are never any paper towels in a station-house bathroom).

But pressed, he at least admitted why he was leaving the best job he ever had.

"I think the department lost sight of the job," he said. "Years ago, it was more of a family. Obviously, we're not paid enough, but it's more than that. We're pushed and pushed. Every time the city is safer for it, but it makes for a force where everyone can't wait to do their 20 and get out. They don't enjoy the work."

He laughed a few times when other officers were roasting him around a table spread with deli sandwiches and mayonnaise-based side salads, but this cop's cop never really let anyone in, even on the one day when that's where everyone wanted to be.

Of course, there was still police work to be done, and Donadio seemed eager to get back to it — despite knowing all about Hollywood's other main cop cliché: that a police officer who is celebrating his last day on the job in Act I

will most likely be dead by Act II.

"Yeah, they'll probably try to keep me in here all night, doing paperwork, but I'm going out on the street," he said.

"It's my last night. Where else would I be?"

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BCAT Program Guide - What's on Brooklyn Community Access Television

Giving Talented Artists A Chance

By Anne Louis Urda

AS A PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHER, HARRY FLEURY KNOWS HOW DIFFICULT IT CAN BE TO "MAKE IT" IN THE ARTS. After taking many publicity shots of aspiring artists over the years he knows all too well that many of them will never get the chance to show the world what they have to offer. That's why he's determined to help.

And help he does. His program, *NYC Underground*, on Brooklyn Community Access Television (BCAT), tries to provide a showcase for those not yet in the public eye.

"*NYC Underground* is a metaphor for all the talent that has yet to be discovered," says Fleury. "It's for the artists and musicians trying to get discovered and break out."

Launched three years ago, the show is a part of a determined grassroots effort undertaken by Fleury to give every talented individual a chance who wants one.

Fleury, who runs the digital business Starlight Multimedia, recalls noticing a trend among many young hopefuls. "You can have a lot of talent but you don't make it through because you don't have the right image or political connections," says Fleury.

While working as a production assistant at CBS, the idea for the show began to take shape and he knew just the right venue for the program.

"I was always aware of BCAT," says Fleury, who decided to learn how to produce his own show once he faced on the concept.

One day, he started shooting at the Baggot Inn in Greenwich Village, which boasts live music every night, and has been booked ever since.

The format of the show, which has featured such artists as Alkon, Twister, Allure and DJ Red Alert, is a mix — part interview and part performance.

For the performance section of the program, Fleury either premieres music videos or captures a live performance at the Baggot Inn, Times Square, or other New York location.



Harry Fleury, producer of the weekly show *NYC Underground* on BCAT, is dedicated to bringing new artists into the spotlight.

Fleury feels that BCAT helps to "open the playing field" without trying to wield authority over who gets airplay and who gets seen.

Among the other BCAT shows, *Democracy Now* is Fleury's personal favorite. "It really helps to filter out what's going on in the news," he says.

Deciding what has been his favorite episode of *NYC Underground*, though, is a tougher question for him to answer. "We had a reggae group, Nussrytz. They're Caucasian but they sing reggae," says Fleury, who happened to catch their act after seeing a poster of the group at CBS.

Fleury also counts Twister among his most memorable guests. "He's a bit of a character himself," says Fleury laughing, while adding how much he enjoyed shooting the episode of the group Pitch Black when they performed at Times Square.

It is this love for meeting and assisting talented individuals that keeps Fleury going, and he shows no signs of slowing down.

So, if you think you have talent and are looking to be discovered, grab your microphone and head on down to the Baggot Inn. You will probably find Fleury there, recording his show for BCAT and trying to catch — and help — the next big thing.

NYC Underground can be seen in Brooklyn on BCAT on Wednesdays at 1:30pm on Time Warner Cable channel 35, Cablevision channel 68, and streaming live online at www.bcat.tv/bcat.

FIND THE COMPLETE BCAT PROGRAMMING GUIDE IN THIS WEEK'S ISSUE

Wins two easy, losses two tough

By Lucky Nigamwajast

The Brooklyn Papers

Nets 96

Knicks 83

Feb. 8 at E. Rutherford

San Antonio 83

Nets 73

Feb. 10 at E. Rutherford

Nets 94

Milwaukee 79

Feb. 12 at E. Rutherford

Detroit 85

Nets 71

Feb. 14 at Detroit

The Brooklyn-bound Nets wanted to prove something going into the All-Star break, playing against two NBA finalists from a year ago.

What they proved is that they still have a ways to go: The Swamp Things lost to both the Spurs and the Pistons this week, sandwiched around two victories over the hapless Knicks and Bucks.

The struggling Knicks rolled into the Meadowlands as losers of 13 out of their last 14 and without their self-proclaimed best point guard in the NBA, Stephen Marbury. The disparity between the two teams was evident in the starting lineups. Quick question: who would you rather have — Jason Kidd, Richard Jefferson and Vince Carter or Jalen Rose, Jamal Crawford and Quentin Richardson? Our thoughts exactly.

Carter, with most respectful apologies to Dominique Wilkins, was a human highlight film against the Knickerbockers, showing off his arsenal of reverse lay-ups and dunks against a Knicks defense reminiscent of a famous Mitteleuropean cave-aged dairy product. The Nets had 31 assists, with the big three having 18 combined.

"It's contagious," Nets coach Lawrence Frank said. "It starts at the top with Jason, and goes across the board. It's looking for the best shot no matter who it is, as long as it's an uncontested look."

Carter ended with 22 points, as the Nets toyed with the Knicks throughout the second and third quarter. The Nets prevailed 96-83.

Saying the Spurs are a step up in competition from the Knicks is like saying Heidi Klum has more pleasing features than Janet Reno. (No offense, Madame Attorney General.)

San Antonio, who ended the Nets' 10-game winning streak last month, ended another streak: the Nets' 12-game home winning streak.

Tim Duncan was surprisingly ineffective, scoring only 12, after missing a game with the flu, but Manu Ginobili and Tony Parker picked up the slack. Ginobili led all scorers with 22 and Parker had 19 against the Nets, who had led at the half 42-39 in a rugged, defensive battle. But Jersey shot awfully in the third period, just 3 for 17, against a stifling Spur defense.

They must pay for turnovers with baskets at the other end," said Carter, who led the Nets with 21. "Offensive rebounds late hurt us. We fell apart a little bit. It was two entirely different halves."

The Nets got the lead at 62-61 in the fourth quarter, but lagged rather than soared, losing 83-73.

The swamplands of Northern New Jersey looked more like a winter wonderland, as the Nets took on the Bucks in a less-than-capacity Meadowlands. Some 5,000 hearty basketball fans braved the record blizzard to watch their departing team bounce back against the tough Bucks.

One of the unsung heroes this season for the Nets has been the old vet Clifford Robinson, whose contributions have been invaluable. Robinson came off the bench for Nenad Krstic, who was ejected at the end of the second period for shoving Jamal Magloire, and scored 16.

And he did more than hit the shots, but fired up the energy-lacking arena, going on an 11-point run in the second quarter. New Jersey had another game with more than 30 assists, this time 32 against the Bucks, who did trim the lead to 57-52 in the third.

But the Nets, leading by as many as 17, provided enjoyable viewing for their snow-bound fans, snug under their blankets at home.

With four players on the Eastern Conference All-Star team, the Pistons are the measuring stick for the NBA. Unfortunately, the Nets can't measure against them right now.

Detroit's physical, bruising defense crushed the Nets, showing no love on Valentine's Day.

Carter, the only Net headed to the All-Star Game in Houston, was held to just 13 points by Tayshaun Prince and a bad cold. The Nets trailed 49-46 in the third, but Detroit

blasted Jersey with a 14-0 run to end any hopes of a win. Chauncey Billups had a double-double with 19 points and 10 assists.

Lucky's Last Links

The Nets went into the All-Star break 27-23, third in the Eastern Conference and leading the Atlantic Division by three games...New Jersey is 17-7 at home.



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BROOKLYN BRIEFS



Gov. Island gondola a 'go'



The Brooklyn Papers

The "Governors Island Gondola" is a go. A once seemingly implausible method of transporting visitors from the proposed Brooklyn Bridge Park to a someday-to-be-reopened Governors Island by gondola is officially part of the city and state plan for the mothballed former Coast Guard base.

To demonstrate its support for the Euro-flavored mode of transport, city and state officials trotted out architect Santiago Calatrava — best known for his soon-to-be-magnificent PATH train station at Ground Zero — at a press conference this week to show off his pod-like air train.

Access to the jewel of New York harbor, just a half-mile off the Brooklyn waterfront, has stymied planners for years. But six months ago, Deputy Mayor Dan Doctoroff floated a plan for a network of gondolas linking recreation areas on the Brooklyn and Lower Manhattan waterfronts to the island. Calatrava said he volunteered to design the model.

At Wednesday's press conference, reporters were skeptical. When one asked about the effect of wind on cable cars dangling 200 feet over the water, Mayor Bloomberg gestured toward Calatrava and said, "That's why he's an architect."

The mayor's confidence in Calatrava was immediately slammed by his onetime mayoral rival, Rep. Anthony Weiner (D-Brooklyn).

"I am concerned that the elevated gondola... would be an expensive and ugly diversion from the common sense travel option: the ferry," he said.

Beyond Calatrava's \$125-million gondola, city and state officials called for "visionary ideas" to reconceive the entire island, a historic federal base that was ceded to New York more than a decade ago for \$1 under the provision that it be developed for public use.

Doctoroff said the official "request for proposals," which are due May 10, would put the island on "an aggressive timetable for 2008."

The "winner" of the RFP process will assume the \$12 million annual maintenance costs that are now split between the city and state, Doctoroff said.

— Gersh Kuntzman

Ratner's Yards pretty dense



The Brooklyn Papers

A new analysis by a noted Brooklyn architect indicates that the Atlantic Yards project is just as bulky as the state's plans for Ground Zero.

The architect, Johnathan Cohn, came up with the startling conclusion that the 17-acre residential and office village slated to surround Bruce Ratner's proposed Nets arena would include as much built space, per acre, as the Ground Zero project, which will include more than 8 million square feet of office and commercial space plus the world's tallest building, the Freedom Tower.

Cohn used a standard city zoning measurement called the floor-to-area ratio, or FAR, to compare Ground Zero's bulk with that of Ratner's 9.1-million-square-foot residential and commercial development.

To calculate a FAR, building area is divided by site acreage.

Cohn said he relied solely on the developer's own square-footage numbers, but subtracted the arena — as well as existing streets that will be demapped and incorporated into the project — so that his numbers would reflect the situation at the remaining 17 acres.

As a result, he calculated that the residential and commercial component of the project has a FAR of 12 — just a minuscule .12 lower than the bulk of what is proposed for Ground Zero.

"Whether it's all in four towers or spread over 18, we are talking about the same ratio of building to area," said the number-crunching architect, a blogger at Brooklynviews.com.

Because it is a state project that doesn't fall under city code, Atlantic Yards would exceed the maximum permissible FAR in Prospect Heights. If approved, it will be the largest development ever built in Brooklyn.

Prospect Heights artist Jon Keegan's visual simulation of the Atlantic Yards project seems to back up Cohn's concern about the project's bulk.

Keegan created the simulation (see photo above) by punching the developer's own figures into Google Earth, which can superimpose digitally manufactured images onto a satellite picture of a place.

The developer didn't respond to calls about the simulation or Cohn's FAR numbers, but has said in the past that the project could shrink following its environmental review.

Even as the developer refused to criticize Keegan's rendering, plenty of online critics did — although not the way Ratner might have.

Several slammed the artist for not including renderings of all the other supposedly oversized buildings in the area that are in the planning phase — many of which will have jerked up the skyline by the time Atlantic Yards is built.

— Ariella Cohen

Marty unveils \$25 borough pass



Borough President Markowitz shows off his own Brooklyn Pass — as if he really needs it!

The Brooklyn Papers

Hey, big spender, how about making a pass at Brooklyn?

A coalition of cultural groups this week unveiled its latest effort to draw tourists to Brooklyn's museums and other attractions.

The program takes the form of a "Brooklyn Pass," a two-day "smart card" that offers free admission and discounts at 17 of the borough's biggest draws.

How good a bargain is the \$25 card? It depends on how fast you can move.

The pass would pay for itself with just the free admission to the New York Aquarium in Coney Island (regularly \$12), the Brooklyn Museum (say goodbye to that suggested donation of \$8) and the Brooklyn Botanic Garden (\$5 admission).

But if you have the energy to visit all the attractions, you'll save \$45 in admission fees, without counting the free slice of cheesecake at Junior's and ticket discounts at the Brooklyn Academy of Music and Bargemuse (for a full list of participants, go to www.brooklynpass.com).

Borough President Markowitz said the pass was designed to serve the needs of tourists.

"Attracting more visitors benefits our economy, which means more growth for our businesses and more jobs for Brooklynites who need them," he said, adding that Brooklynites should take advantage of the offer when out-of-town guests drop in.

The "Brooklyn Pass," of course, is merely an expansion of an existing, one-day New York Pass, already being offered by tourism authorities across the river and a company called Leisure Pass.

Such local institutions as the Brooklyn Museum, the Botanic Garden, the Children's Museum and others are already offered on Leisure Pass's broader, one-day, \$49 New York version. But the problem is, few Manhattan tourists make the trip across the river, even with the existing incentives.

But how about this as an incentive: Leisure Pass's director John Cronin admitted that if someone were to visit each of the 17 Brooklyn attractions during his or her two days in Brooklyn, Leisure Pass would actually lose money.

Up for the challenge, Brooklyn? — Kuntzman

We play go-between for Barron and Towns

The Brooklyn Papers

While political insiders were focussing on the genteel, five-person race to succeed Rep. Major Owens (D-Brooklyn Heights), a genuine congressional smackdown started brewing in the district next door.

City Councilman Charles Barron (D-Carson) has thrown his over-the-top explosive into the ring and challenged Rep. Ed Towns (D-Fort Greene), calling the 23-year congressional veteran a "do-nothing, missing-in-action lack."

"Whenever anything happens in this district, there is no Ed Towns," said Barron, whose entire council district is

within the 10th Congressional District, giving him immediate name recognition.

Timothy Stansbury is shot by police — no Ed Towns. Children are dying because the city isn't doing its job — no Ed Towns. Parks are falling apart — no Ed Towns. Money is being siphoned from public schools — no Ed Towns. Where is he on anything?"

For one thing, he was returning a call from The Brooklyn Papers to reject Barron's description of him. "I am the only member of the New York delegation who has headed the Congressional Black Caucus," he said. "That shows my leadership, the re-

spect I have of my colleagues and my ability to build coalitions."

"Charles Barron has never led," the 71-year-old Towns added. "He's a great noise-maker, but what has he fixed?"

That set off another salvo from Barron.

"Tell him I fixed his neighborhood!" Barron said. "Tell him to come to East New York and see Linden Park, which now has a turf field and lights. Tell him to visit our workforce development project. Tell him about the \$10-million youth center that's coming."

OK, we'll tell him. — Kuntzman

For at least 1 day, DUMBO finds 'Love'



Erin Hudak at the DUMBO hill along Washington Street with her "Love" installation.

The Brooklyn Papers

Alas, love sometimes only lasts a day.

Artist Erin Hudak took a few dozen yards of pink acrylic and transformed a snow-covered hill in DUMBO into a tribute to Valentine's Day romance this week — and then just as quickly snuffed it out.

"No, don't take it down!" screamed a teenager in a car that had pulled over to the side of Washington Street as Hudak removed the script "love."

"It's so romantic. We were hoping it would

be there forever!"

It didn't even last a few hours. Hudak unfurled her "love" letter around 9 a.m., the hot pink material standing out against the still-clean snow. By 4 p.m., it was gone. That's the way the art crumbles sometimes.

"It was wonderful as an artist," Hudak said. "I saw people walking across the Brooklyn Bridge standing on benches to see it. A woman left a note for me that said, 'Thank you for spreading the love... You are an angel!'"

— Kuntzman

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Overcoming Friedan's ghost

BETTY FRIEDAN showed up in the sky above Seventh Avenue last week as Smartmom headed to Connecticut Muffin after the PS 321 drop-off.

"You have betrayed the foremothers!" Betty shouted, after listening to the moms discussing kitchen renovations, pre-school admissions, and whether there's fresh kiwi at the Food Coop (there is, but it's not always organic!).

"We didn't struggle for equality so you could obsess over the PTA candy sale?"

But Smartmom, who once devoured Friedan's "The Feminine Mystique," yelled back: "Just because I drop my daughter off in the morning, buy after-school soft ice cream with rainbow sprinkles at the Mojo, and make Kraft, er, Annie's Macaroni and Cheese for dinner, doesn't mean I've betrayed the feminist struggle!"

"Oh, no?" Betty screamed back. "Shame on you for stepping on the backs of your sisters who fought to give you freedom from such mental docility!"

Clearly, Betty was disgusted. With all the Bugaboos and the baby slings, she probably thought Park Slope circa 2006 was not too different from the suburbia she wrote about in 1963: "There was a silent stir-

SMART mom

By Louise Crawford



ring. Each suburban wife struggled with it alone. As she made the beds, shopped for groceries, matched slipcover material, ate peanut butter sandwiches with her children, chauffeured Cub Scouts and Brownies, lay beside her husband at night, she was afraid to ask even of herself the silent question: 'Is this all?'"

Smartmom and her friends do put the comforter back on the bed in the morning, make organic peanut butter sandwiches and chauffeur their children to chess, knitting and hip hop dancing classes.

But that's where the similarity ends. Smartmom and her friends are a well-educated, accomplished lot. Sure, some of them took a few years off to concentrate on their children.

But whether they're on the job or on the Avenue, they're movers and shakers, organizers and instigators. And none

of them lie beside their husbands at night afraid to say anything.

Take Type A, a mom rushing by Smartmom in her Burberry raincoat, high heels, and a laptop shoulder bag as she headed off to her high-paying job on Wall Street.

TREADING THE SAME path was a cluster of other high-powered lawyer moms, a network television producer, an architect, a magazine editor, an award-winning radio journalist and a freelance writer. Smartmom asked Type A if she was a feminist. "Of course," she said. "I always thought it was my birthright to have a career."

Thanks to Betty and the other feminist pioneers, many Park Slope moms ascended the corporate ladder, the law firm hierarchy, the world of end magazines, the world of entertainment and the corridors of government. And just like

their 1960s suburban counterparts, many of them asked the very same question — "Is this all?" — because they want more from life than just work. And you know what they wanted? Hate to tell you, Betty: Babies.

Coming of age in the mid-1970s, Smartmom never imagined that she would one day consider motherhood the most important thing in her life. As a teenager, she thought the dorkiest thing you could do was be someone's mother. What a waste of a life, she used to say.

As a young feminist, Smartmom studied self-defense and sparred with boys twice her size. She took women's history courses, marched in pro-choice demonstrations, attended assertiveness training workshops, and never once shaved her legs or underarms.

After college, Smartmom entered the 1980s workforce as a Norma Kamali jacket with over-sized shoulder pads and became a professional in the high-stakes world of media.

And three months after Teen Spirit was born, Smartmom was trusted back to her well-paying job and left him in the care of a weekend babysitter.

But, oh, did she suffer. Seeing her little wuff good-bye from the window of their

fourth-floor walk-up every morning was heart-wrenching. And she couldn't wait to come home.

Smartmom still loved her work, but the hours became untenable. She was stressed out, exhausted and angry all the time. She soldiered on because, well, that's what Friedan would have wanted her to do. And she and Hepcat needed the money and the health insurance. None of her female co-workers at the women-owned media firm had children. They were completely hostile to her request not to work nights and weekends. Sorry Betty, but this was woman-on-woman oppression.

SMARTMOM ENVIED the women who were home full-time because she would come home too exhausted to get any "quality" from the stay-at-home with Teen Spirit.

But the stay-at-homes were exhausted, too, as well as high-strung, bored, and, if you asked Betty, disempowered because they weren't making money.

So when the Oh So Feisty One came along, Smartmom didn't want to miss out on the first year of her life, juggling playdates and IQ-enhancing activities (this was 1997).

And yet... Smartmom still had moments when she longed to

read the New York Times on the subway or go to a professional office all day. Sometimes she locked herself in the bathroom just to be alone and found herself thinking, is this all there is?

The good thing is that kids grow up. As OSFO has grown more independent, Smartmom has been able to be "ambitious" again.

So when Betty appeared in the sky again above Peek-a-Boo Kids, Smartmom was ready.

"I wanted you to see that there was more to life than husband, children and the home," Betty said sadly. "So why are all the women around here pushing strollers and abandoning careers they got good educations to pursue?"

"Look," Smartmom said. "I'm not the CEO of a company, the editor of a newspaper (yet), or a partner in a big law firm. But I am a writer, a mother, and a wife. I am someone who is passionate about her career AND her family! Am I not woman? Do you not hear me now?"

Smartmom heard a giant sigh from up in the heavens, but when she looked up, Betty was gone.

Louise Crawford, a Park Slope mom, also runs the Web site, "Only the blog knows Brooklyn."

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[illegible]

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[illegible]

| | | CV | 1:00m | 1:30m | 2:00m | 2:30m | 3:00m | 3:30m | 4:00-9:00m |
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